GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3338
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN TRIBAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve the irrigational facilities in the Tribal areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) Schemes for irrigation development including those in respect of tribal areas are planned and implemented by respective State Governments. However, Government of India encourages and provide necessary incentives to State for taking up works for irrigational facilities in tribal areas of the country. Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of Ministry of Water Resources, several provisions have been made to encourage States to take up irrigation schemes benefiting tribal areas. The scope of AIBP was extended with effect from 1999-2000 to include minor irrigation (MI) schemes for special category States of North-Eastern regions, other hilly States namely Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, and Kalahandi, Bolangir & Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa . This was further extended with effect from 1.4.2005 to other states (non-special category) for those MI schemes with potential more than 100 ha. with preference to tribal and drought prone areas. The guidelines were further relaxed from December, 2006 for non-special category states to include MI schemes with potential more than 50 ha. which serve tribal and drought prone areas. The central assistance is now provided in the form of central grant which is 90% of the project cost in case of special category States, project benefiting tribal area, and drought prone area including KBK districts of Orissa. Central assistance released to various states under AIBP for minor irrigation works in tribal area and for special category States is at Annexure-I.

In consonance with the commitment made in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) regarding launching a comprehensive National Programme for Minor Irrigation of land owned by Dalits and Adivasis, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs initiated a special programme during 2005-06 to provide 100 per cent financial assistance to States for taking up minor irrigation schemes for land owned by tribals. This programme has been taken up under the assistance provided to States for bridging infrastructure gaps in tribal areas under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The projects are aimed to enhance the productivity of land belonging to tribals, water harvesting, soil conservation and promote economic development, improve socio- economic conditions, generate employment and improvement of bio-diversity and ecological conservation and thereby poverty alleviation of the tribal people residing in the tribal area. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz., Rainwater Harvesting for Scheduled Caste / Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) Farmers was implemented during the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 to provide crop life saving irrigation facilities to homestead /farm lands of SC/ST farmers for augmenting their income. The total subsidy disbursed was Rs.2,450 lakh out of which Rs.2,403.98 lakh has been released so far creating 17,161 units of water harvesting structures benefiting a total area of 8,808 ha. in 27 States. State-wise details of subsidy disbursed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, viz., Rainwater Harvesting for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) Farmers are indicated in Annexure-II.